

Message Text

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61

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 EB-11

IO-12 RSR-01 AID-20 OMB-01 /124 W
----- 079280

R 161445 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8443
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3843

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, JO, GZ

SUBJECT: SHAWWA CLAN SEEKING JORDANIAN SUPPORT

1. MOHAMMED SHAWWA, GAZA BUSINESSMAN AND SHAWWA CLAN' S "FOREIGN AFFAIRS" EXPERT, CALLED AT EMBASSY MAY 15 TO DISCUSS FORTHCOMING TRIP TO AMMAN. SHAWWA SAID HE HAD RECEIVED LETTER FROM HIS AGENT IN AMMAN MAY 12 STATING THAT HUSSEIN WOULD RECEIVE SHAWWA NEXT WEEK IN ORDER TO DISCUSS SHAWWA' S PET SCHEME FOR IMPORTING GOODS INTO JORDAN THROUGH GAZA PORT. SHAWWA SAID HE ALSO PLANNED TO DISCUSS TWO ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS WITH HUSSEIN: AN UNPUBLICIZED SUBSIDY IN NEIGHBORHOOD OF \$500,000 FROM KING HUSSEIN TO SHAWWA CLAN FOR SETTING UP ARABIC LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER (CONTROLLED BY SHAWWA CLAN) FOR GAZA RESIDENTS; AND JORDANIAN FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO AID SHAWWA CLAN IN ORGANIZING PRO- JORDANIAN POLITICAL FORCE IN GAZA STRIP.

2. SHAWWA SEEMED TO BELIEVE THAT HE WOULD RECEIVE A POSITIVE REPLY FROM HUSSEIN ON IMPORTATION OF GOODS THROUGH GAZA PORT, LARGELY BECAUSE OF GROUNDWORK LAID BY HIS AGENT IN AMMAN. THIS PET PROJECT WAS SUBJECT OF TWO PREVIOUS VISITS TO AMMAN BY SHAWWA IN AUGUST AND NOVEMBER OF LAST YEAR. DURING FIRST VISIT SHAWWA STATED HE PRESENTED PROJECT TO HUSSEIN WHO SEEMED INTERESTED AND TURNED MATTER OVER TO CROWN PRINCE HASSAN.

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DURING SECOND VISIT, SHAWWA SAID HE DISCUSSED PROJECT WITH

HASSAN AND WAS TOLD THAT GOJ HAD PROJECT UNDER STUDY. SHAWWA CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN TOLD BY OCCUPIED TERRITORIES COORDINATOR GEN SHLOMO GAZIT THAT THIS PROJECT HAS RECEIVED DAYAN'S TACIT APPROVAL.

3. COMMENT: WE ARE SKEPTICAL OF SHAWWA'S BELIEF THAT GOJ WILL SUPPORT HIS SCHEMES, NONE OF WHICH SEEM TO BE WELL THOUGHT OUT. IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE FOR EXAMPLE, THAT GOJ WOULD BE INTERESTED IN IMPORTATION OF GOODS THROUGH GAZA PORT. EXTENSIVE IMPROVEMENT OF PORT FACILITIES WOULD BE NECESSARY TO MAKE THIS A WORTHWHILE PROJECT AND NEITHER GOI, NOR GOJ, APPEAR WILLING TO MAKE REQUIRED FINANCIAL INVESTMENT. RE FINANCIAL BACKING FOR POLITICAL ORGANIZATION, SHAWWA CLAN ENJOYS LITTLE POPULAR SUPPORT IN GAZA (WHICH GOJ MUST KNOW) AND IS NOT HELD IN HIGH ESTEEM BY ISRAELI AUTHORITIES. (SEE TEL AVIV 5558 OF AUG 24, 1972) THIS IN TURN WOULD HAVE IMPORTANT BEARING ON INFLUENCE NEWSPAPER CONTROLLED BY SHAWWA CLAN COULD BRING TO BEAR IN GAZA. SHAWWA'S ACTIVITIES SEEM DESIGNED PRIMARILY TO FEATHER HIS OWN NEST.
ZURHELLEN

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